Attorney Docket No.: 10423.204-US PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Lassen et al. Confirmation No: To be assigned

Serial No.: To be assigned Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Filed: December 13, 2005 Examiner: To be assigned

For: Improved Proteases and Methods for Producing Them

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Before examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

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Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this document.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this document.

Remarks and arguments begin on page 7 of this document.